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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- March 4, 2019



REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

March 4, 2019

Latest News

New Mexico Court Push May Limit Impact Of Key Suit On State PFAS Powers

New Mexico officials are seeking to steer Defense Department litigation challenging their permit restrictions on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to state court, a move that if successful could limit any precedent the litigation may set on federal officials' ability to challenge such state actions.

Manufacturers Seek To Dismiss Landmark Class Action Suit Over PFAS

Manufacturers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are seeking to dismiss a potentially landmark class action suit that is pursuing industry-funded, independent nationwide health studies and testing to determine the effects of multiple PFAS found in the blood of nearly all Americans.

Critics Fear EPA Region 1 Chief Will Exacerbate Rollbacks, Staff Attrition

The Trump administration has appointed former Maine environment chief Paul Mercer as the new EPA Region 1 administrator covering New England, drawing fire from environmentalists who fear his work under a conservative governor will bolster the agency's deregulatory agenda that has seen the region's staff shrink by attrition.

Hearing On Proposed CWA Rule Previews Legal Arguments On Final Policy

Speakers at EPA's public hearing on its proposed Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule gave early signals of how they plan to attack or defend the eventual final version of the rule in court, with environmentalists hinting at procedural and substantive arguments that they could raise in litigation aimed at striking down a narrow CWA test.

Republican Carbon Tax Backer Sees Green New Deal As Political Opening

One of the few House GOP backers of a carbon tax is praising the Green New Deal (GND) as opening up the political "space" for his party to embrace what he says are more reasonable policies to curb greenhouse gases, confirming fears by hard-line opponents of carbon controls who are attacking the GND to preclude such scenarios.

District Judge Finds EPA Liability Under Superfund For Gold King Mine Spill

A federal district judge has ruled that EPA faces liability under the Superfund law for its accidental massive wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine cleanup in 2015, backing state and private plaintiffs' claims that federal cleanup projects like the mine can be subject to the statute's application to waste "operators," "arrangers," and "transporters."

Daily Feed

House GOP taps Graves for select climate panel

Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) has acknowledged the need to adapt to rising sea levels, but generally opposes policies to reduce greenhouse gases.

Lawmakers, environmentalists seek hearing on EtO analysis

"It is not proper for EPA to be requesting comment on, or considering any change in use of the health risk factor for EtO" in a proposed rule focused on the hydrochloric acid sector, environmentalists say.

Quoted: Reaction to Andrew Wheeler's confirmation

Environmentalist critics of the Trump administration blasted Wheeler's confirmation, while industry groups largely said he would offer them more regulatory certainty.

Ewire: Pelosi demurs on House vote for Green New Deal

In today's Ewire: The House Speaker says she cannot say if Democrats will "take that and pass it because we have to go through our checks and balances of it with our committee chairs and the rest."

Superfund watchdog group expected to shutter

CPEO has mainly relied on funding from EPA and the Defense Department (DOD) but those funds ran out last year, "and there is no immediate prospect for new funding."

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